ELL Reader

Genre	Build Background	Access Content	Extend Language
Poetry	• Dinosaurs • Extinction • Climate Change	• Definitions • Captions and Labels • Time Line	• Dinosaur Names

Scott Foresman Reading Street 5.3.3

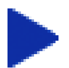
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DINOSAUR TIME LINE

by Carl Escobedo
Illustrated by Gary Torrisi







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LONG, LONG AGO

The poem on these pages is not about now.
It's not about a dog, or a cat, or a cow.
This poem is about dinosaurs long, long ago,
Who died in the past—in the heat or the snow.

Did You Know? Alligators

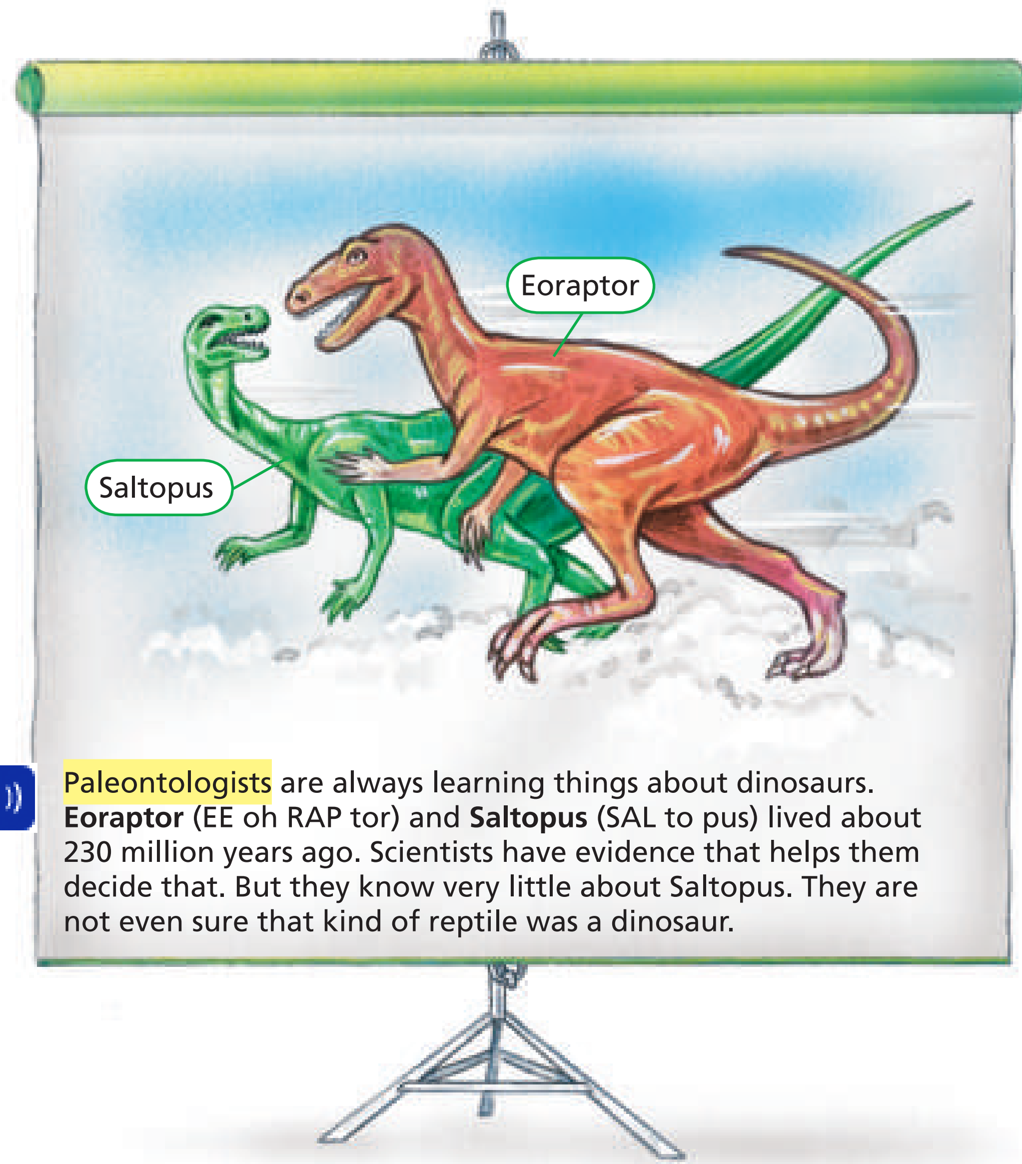
Alligators live in our world today. Like dinosaurs, they are cold-blooded. Some alligators are 15 feet long. Alligators are reptiles. Dinosaurs were too.



now: modern times

cold-blooded: not able to warm or cool their bodies unless the air around them is warm or cool





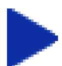


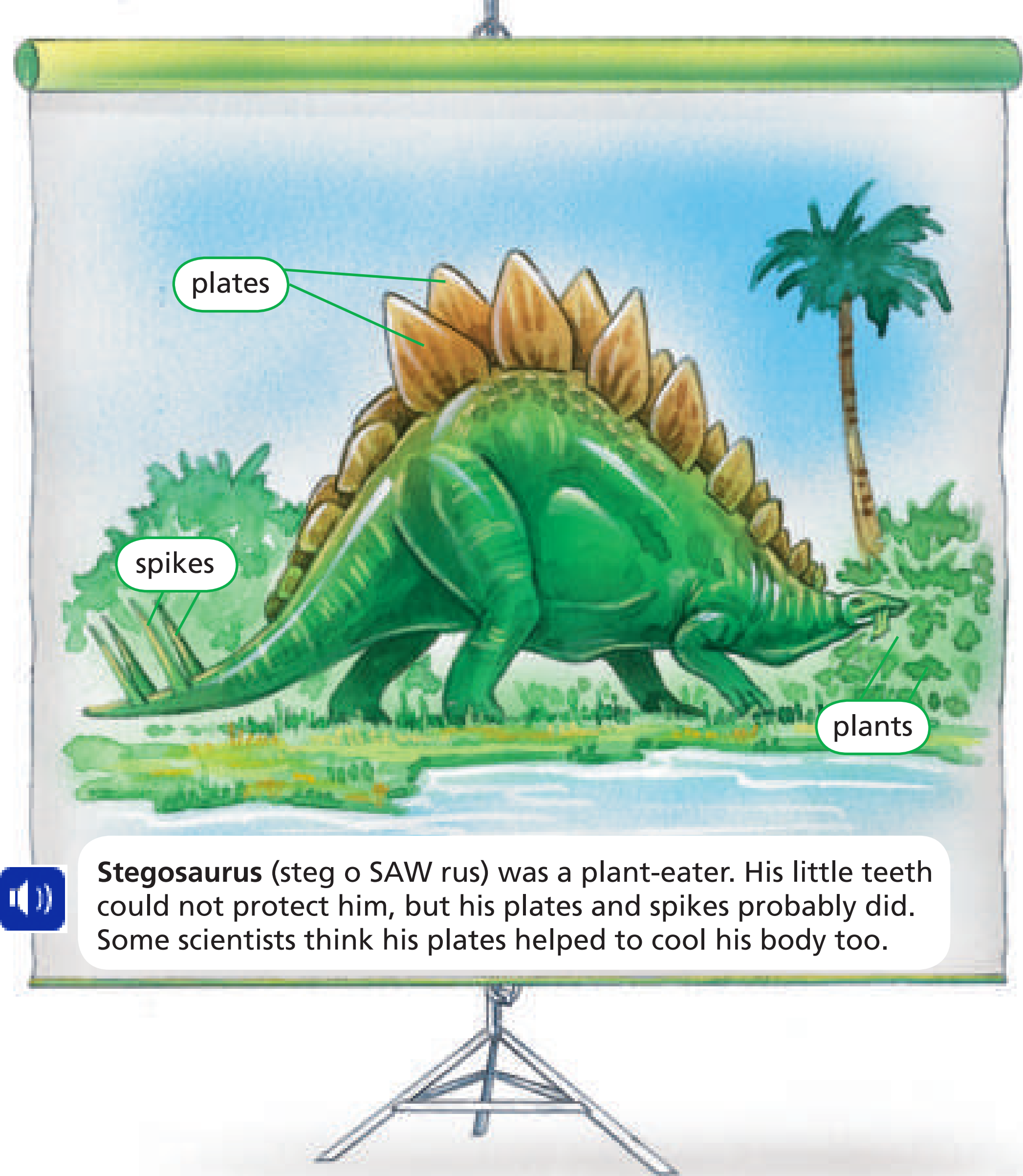
Paleontologists are always learning things about dinosaurs. **Eoraptor** (EE oh RAP tor) and **Saltopus** (SAL to pus) lived about 230 million years ago. Scientists have evidence that helps them decide that. But they know very little about Saltopus. They are not even sure that kind of reptile was a dinosaur.

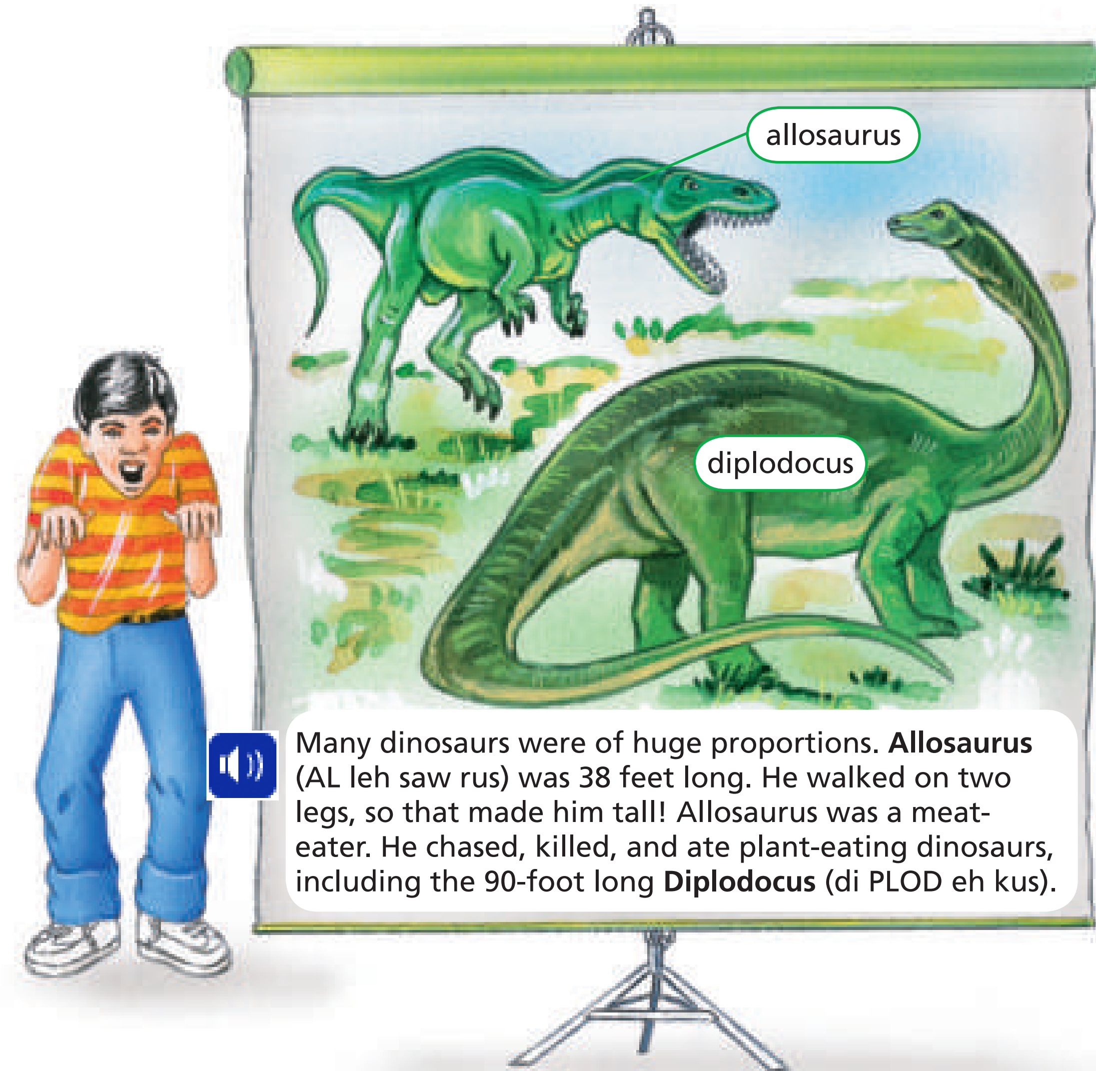
230 MILLION YEARS AGO

Now the fast **Eoraptor**—he was quite small.
But he was almost the first dino of all.
Saltopus—she was still smaller than that.
She was the size of a friendly house cat.

paleontologists: scientists who study prehistoric life







150 MILLION YEARS AGO

A long time later, **Stegosaurus** was bred.
With plates down his back all the way toward his head.
The spikes on his tail helped him out in a battle.
But he ate only plants, just like today's cattle.

was bred: began living

cattle: cows and bulls

Allosaurus arrived the same time or later,
But that was still years before our alligator.
If millions of years are between Allosaurus and us,
I'm happy for that. I won't make a fuss.
This guy was just huge, with big, spiky teeth.
The trouble with him was: he ate dinosaur meat.
He was wild and fierce. His feet must have pounded.
I wonder how he and his kind would have sounded!

make a fuss: complain or protest; be unhappy





Archaeopteryx (ar kay OP tur iks) had wings and feathers. Some scientists say he was an early bird, not a dinosaur. Maybe he could fly; maybe he could not. Scientists are not sure.

Now you might picture some dinosaurs in the sky—
Archaeopteryx, for one—but I doubt he could fly.
With feathers and wings, he was almost a bird
But didn't have the right bones for flying, I've heard.



The **Tyrannosaurus rex** (tih ran o SORE us rex) was fierce, but on some occasions, a plant-eater called **Styracosaurus** (sty RACK oh SORE us) could win a fight with a Tyrannosaurus.

100 MILLION YEARS AGO

The fiercest of all came along much later.
His jaws remind me of a biting alligator.
This killing-machine was called **Tyrannosaurus**.
You wouldn't want him to be in your school chorus.
But **Styracosaurus** wouldn't give me a scare.
Sure she had spikes, for defense, but that's fair.
Tyrannosaurus was hungry; he wanted to eat her.
But the horns on her head could defeat the meat-eater.

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chorus: choir; group of singers

give me a scare: frighten me; scare me









DINOSAUR TIME LINE

- 230 Million Years Ago: Eoraptor
- 150 Million Years Ago: Stegosaurus
- 100 Million Years Ago: Tyrannosaurus rex
- 65 Million Years Ago: Styracosaurus
- Today: Alligator; Bird

65 MILLION YEARS AGO

Some paleontologists think that back in the past
The dinosaurs died from a great volcano blast.
Others think an asteroid crashed in from space,
Making the world a very hot place.
Some scientists think it was cold, not the heat,
That killed off the creatures we never can meet.
But long before schools, parks, and cities worldwide,
Earth's weather changed and the dinosaurs died.

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volcano: mountain that sends hot rocks, ash, and gas into the sky

asteroid: very large rock that flies around the sun



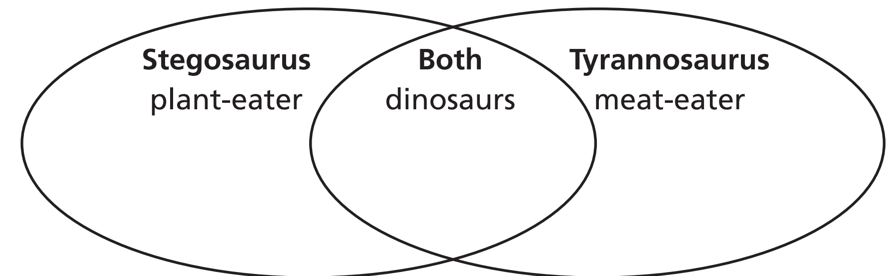


Talk About It

1. Describe one kind of dinosaur.
2. Which kind of dinosaur do you like best? Why?

Write About It

3. On a separate sheet of paper, make a Venn diagram to compare and contrast two kinds of dinosaurs from the book. The diagram below gives an example, but you can compare any two dinosaurs.



Extend Language

The word *dinosaur* comes from two Greek words: *deinos* ("terrible") and *sauros* ("lizard"). A dinosaur might be called a terrible lizard, or reptile. If the Greek word *stegos* means a "roof, or a ridge of plates," what does the word *Stegosaurus* mean? If the Greek word *turannos* means "a tyrant, or a cruel ruler" and the Latin word *rex* means "king," what does *Tyrannosaurus rex* mean?

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